

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2004.**

**ATTENDANCE**

**COUNCIL:** Randy Menard (Chair - District 9), Rob Stevenson (Vice Chair - District 8), Bobby Badeaux (District 1) Dale Bourgeois (District 2), Christopher J. Williams, Ph.D. (District 3), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Bruce Conque (District 6), Marc Mouton (District 7)

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL STAFF:** Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Veronica Williams (Assistant Clerk), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** L.J. Durel, Jr. (City-Parish President), Dee Stanley (CAO), Pat Ottinger (City-Parish Attorney), Gail Smith (Director of Administrative Services), Chief Robert Benoit (Fire Department), Interim Chief Randy Hundley (Police Department), Becky Lalumia (Director of Finance & Management), Melanie Lewis (Director of Community Development), Tony Tramel (Director of Traffic & Transportation), Tom Carroll (Director of Public Works), Eleanor Bouy (Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes), Gerald Boudreaux (Director of Parks & Recreation), Terry Huval (Director of Utilities)

**COMMENCEMENT**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Randy Menard called the Special Council Meeting of September 30, 2004 to order.

**ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(051)AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: O-178-2004 An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting an Operating Budget of revenues and expenditures for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government for the Fiscal Year beginning November 1, 2004, and ending October 31, 2005. A motion to adopt was offered by Broussard, seconded by Benjamin.

Menard stated language was inserted that reflected a 2% across-the-board pay increase to all full-time employees and eligible elected officials. Originally it was suggested to fund pay increases at mid-year. Lalumia added that the EQ rate is being amended within the subject ordinance. Williams and Mouton thanked the Administration, various Council members and the Night Owl Service vendor for working together on a solution to be able to continue the services for the next two years.

**The following separate amendments were pulled:**

- #2 – President’s 2% General Increase
- #3 – Creation of CIO/INFO Technology Department
- #4 – Newly Elected Council members pay
- #5 – Newly Elected President’s pay
- #6 – Acadiana Outreach Capital
- #13 – District Court
- #14 – Coroner’s Office
- #15 – Council Office – Travel

Menard explained the items that were pulled would be funded as recommended.

**General amendments were approved in globo.**

A motion was offered to approve the general amendments in globo by Broussard, seconded by Williams and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

**The following separate amendments were discussed and voted upon:**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(186)

**#1 – City Council 2% General Increase**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Stevenson and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: Bourgeois, Conque, Mouton

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Upon questioning by Menard, Lalumia explained the budget document includes a reserve of 2% for all employees including eligible elected officials.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(237)

**#7 – I-49 Corridor Mgt Plan (Delete \$10,000 funding for I-49 Technical Consultant and redirect to I-49 Corridor Management Plan)**

A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Broussard and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Stevenson

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Mouton, Menard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Williams explained the subject amendment references the non-commitment of money from the proposed budget to the I-49 Corridor. He opined the funding, which was for a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., should not be used given the need for those who live along the corridor to be ensured neighborhood tranquility as the project develops. He hopes to receive a recommitment from the Administration that LCG will uphold the tenets along the corridor and is concerned for the safety of the residents.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(279)

**#8 – District Attorney Pay Increase of \$5,035**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Broussard and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Menard

NAYS: Bourgeois, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(309)

**#9 – Street Bonds Projects (Delete \$2,000,000 from 05/06 Eraste Landry Widening Phase II-A and add \$2,000,000 to 05/06 Doc Duhon/Robley Drive Ext)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Broussard and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin, Broussard

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was defeated.*

Broussard suggested removing the money from the Eraste Landry Widening Phase II project and placing it in the Doc Duhon/Robley Drive Extension Project, in order to assist in alleviating traffic in that area. He still contends Eraste Landry Road needs to be widened but felt the current need was greater for the Doc Duhon/Robley Drive Extension project. Conque felt that the project should be maintained as is. The plan for the intersection at Johnston Street and Duhon will be a 4-laned divided median for 1,000 feet past the intersection. With the new library to be located at that intersection, there will be plenty of roadway to cover that area. He felt by extending Eraste Landry Road from Cajundome Blvd. to the bridge near KATC Channel 3, would show foresight. The route would provide an alternative access to Cajundome Blvd. He urged defeat of the amendment.

Upon questioning by Stevenson, Carroll stated the design for Eraste Landry extension began in the late 1970's or early 1980's. The first segment from Galbert Road to KATC Channel 3 has been completed but the traffic is light. The design for the subject section is completed. Once Eraste Landry Road extension is constructed between Ambassador Caffery and Hwy 93, he feels the traffic will increase on Eraste Landry. He confirmed that a full intersection would be constructed at Doc Duhon and Johnston Street, going south toward Robley. The only issue is a

possible need to advance the project because one of the property owners has put a caveat on his donation that if construction does not begin by 2005, he may rescind his right-of-way donation. He added that Rue de Belier, Doc Duhon and Robley Drive would probably have one of the more significant traffic impacts other than Camellia. Tramel confirmed there were no impact studies conducted on the two subject projects.

After hearing comments made by Broussard and Conque, Stevenson offered a substitute motion, seconded by Badeaux ***to place the money in reserve until a decision could be made based upon validity and prioritization.*** Both projects will be continued; however, his concern is the decision of which will be done first.

Williams concurred with comments by Broussard with regard to the readiness of the project. The companion amendment relates to the Simcoe Street Corridor project, which was not addressed during the budget process. If the majority of the Council were to approve the subject amendment, the remaining \$1,000,000 would go to a street that was in major disrepair. Williams then urged approval of Broussard's amendment. Badeaux asked Carroll for an opinion on which project is nearest to the beginning stage. Carroll stated both projects are at the same stage. Benjamin urged support of the amendment; however, Menard urged defeat of the amendment.

Conque stated Eraste Landry would be used as an alternate route during the improvements of Dulles from Ambassador Caffery to the West. He commented that \$900,000 has been allocated for cosmetic improvements to Simcoe Street. The actual plan for the Simcoe Street Corridor has not been finalized.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)

Stevenson concurred with all discussions regarding both amendments. Therefore, he rescinded his substitute motion to place the funding in reserve. Badeaux, as the second, concurred and at this point called for the question, seconded by Broussard and the vote on call for the question was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: Williams, Benjamin

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(033)

**#10 – Street Bonds Projects (Delete \$1,000,000 from 05/06 Eraste Landry Widening Phase II and add \$1,000,000 to 05/06 Simcoe St. Corridor – Phase II-A)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Benjamin and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was defeated.*

Williams felt the Simcoe Street Project is a project that has not been addressed for various reasons. He opined the money should be placed with a project that is needed in order to protect the safety of vehicular traffic as well as quality of life for the residents. Benjamin supported Williams' comments.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(095)

**#11 – Janitorial/Grounds Contracts (Delete various outsourcing contracts and provide in-house services)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Benjamin and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was defeated.*

Williams explained the subject amendment works with the concept of in-house employees for maintenance of LCG buildings versus outsourcing. He is recommending that employees be utilized for the maintenance of the buildings. He has received numerous calls from employees who felt they are being removed from a specific location in order to outsource maintenance at that location. At this point, he offered an additional amendment, accepted by maker and second

*to hire employees for all LCG buildings except 1010 Lafayette Street.* Maintenance for this location would continue to be outsourced. By doing this, there would be a cost savings of approximately \$10,000 as well as more service in terms of hours and the buildings could be maintained correctly. Originally, Stevenson agreed with Williams' concerns; however, after receiving correspondence from Carroll regarding In-house vs. Contractual Janitorial Services, he opined there would be little to no savings and felt it could be outsourced.

Upon questioning by Mouton, Carroll explained during the budget process it was requested to review and compare contractual services that were in effect at the present time with various buildings with that of hiring in-house staff. The correspondence was prepared by looking at those areas that in-house staff had at one time. With reference to 1010 Lafayette Street, the building had been under contractual services for some time. By eliminating 3 positions, the cost comparison decreased from \$491,000 for in-house to \$426,000 for contractual services. By removing 1010 Lafayette Street, the cost is basically a "wash". In speaking to various employees regarding the services in the different buildings, he never received the impression of poor services.

Stanley stated the Administration has hired a part-time janitor for LeCentre and full-time janitor at Community Development and a full-time janitor has been authorized for Traffic and Transportation. These janitors are considered "test cases" to determine if these particular positions are able to attract individuals for employment for the pay that they would receive.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(411)

**#12 – Assessor Equipment (Move out of reserve and cut funding from \$205,200 to \$70,800)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Conque and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Conrad Comeaux, Tax Assessor, explained after meeting with the Administration, he decreased his original request by \$134,400. The following items were deleted:

- Internet server and services - \$36,000
- Digital area photography - \$75,000
- Reduced switch from \$27,900 to \$8,900
- Replacement computers and laptop - \$4,400

Lalumia stated the money was originally in reserve and requested direction to keep the \$70,800 in reserve or transfer the money to a line item in order to make it available for expenditure. Menard stated the money was to be removed from reserve and placed into a line item account.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(482)

**#16 – Crossing Guards 2% General Increase**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Stevenson and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Mouton explained the 2% increase would raise the pay of the Crossing Guards from \$6.25 per hour to \$6.38 per hour.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(509)

**#17 – Substance Abuse Salary Allocation (Allocate ½ salary and benefits for Substance Abuse Manager to General Fund)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Williams and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Conque, Mouton, Menard

NAYS: Benjamin, Broussard, Stevenson

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Williams explained the subject amendment would move a portion of the Substance Abuse Manager's salary current funding into the General Fund. Lalumia added that half of the Substance Abuse Manager's time is spent overseeing the Substance Abuse Policy for LCG as opposed to the program that LCG collects fees for. Upon questioning by Benjamin, Lalumia explained by transferring the manager's salary into the general fund, the program becomes self-supporting by \$17,000. Menard added in the past, there was discussion regarding participation by the City Court Judges to assist in the salary of the Substance Abuse Manager. Stanley responded the City Court Judges support the program and have indicated that without the program, their operations and goals would considerably decline.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(001)

**#18 – ATAC Building Maintenance (\$5,865 for move to War Memorial Building)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Stevenson and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Mouton explained the money would be utilized for building maintenance. Stanley added the move has been anticipated for 8 years. The current building is unsafe and in disrepair. The request is for the division and LCG to split the cost in order that the personnel may move into a safe location.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(026)

**The following amendments were added:**

**#19 – 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court (Additional \$38,650)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Broussard and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Benjamin, Conque, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Broussard, Mouton

ABSENT: Williams

ABSTAIN: None

*Original Motion was defeated.*

Lalumia explained the funds would be used for:

- The new revenue increase of \$32,000 for the juror service fee. The expense account will be increased by \$59,000 because the state changed the per diem payment for juror payments.
- The supplies and materials line item had been reduced from \$35,000 to \$25,000, however, it was determined the original amount would be needed. The recommendation is to increase \$10,000 to supplies & materials.
- To increase revenues from contempt fines and the offsetting accounts which they are distributed to with a net increase in revenues to the Parish General Fund of \$3350.00.

After the original motion to approve was defeated, a motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Mouton to bring this item back for reconsideration, however, a substitute motion to place the \$38,650 in reserve for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter pending receipt of the reports was offered by Badeaux, seconded by Broussard and after further discussion the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion to place the \$38,650 in reserve for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter pending receipt of the reports was approved.*

Stanley added it is important to have an account of potential fees that could be collected as opposed to what is being received. Badeaux expressed his concerns regarding the importance of the accountability reports. He also requested a monthly report on potential income as well as fees being collected by the Sheriff's Department. Judge Castle explained she is working with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has updated their program and will be sending the judges monthly reports. In a meeting with Clerk of Court Louis Perret, he has committed to put a program in place to keep track of what is imposed in court, with the understanding that there will be additional monies received from tickets. Upon questioning by Williams, Lalumia

confirmed the substitute motion would not create a fiscal hardship.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(063)

**#20 – Fire Department**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Benjamin to fund 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter and place remainder into Reserve until report is received and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: Mouton

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion to fund the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter was approved.*

Benjamin explained he did receive a report, however, it was not the information he was requesting. He requested information with regards to leave, work schedules and accountability. He is concerned with the amount of overtime that is being paid.

A motion was offered to approve Ordinance No. O-178-2004 as amended by Broussard, seconded by Benjamin and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved as amended.*

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(423)**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-179-2004** An ordinance of the Lafayette City-Parish Council adopting a Multi-year Capital Improvement Program for the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government, commencing with Fiscal Year 2004-05. A motion to adopt was offered by Mouton, seconded by Williams.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(439)

**General amendments were approved in globo.**

A motion was offered by Broussard, seconded by Williams to approve the general amendments in globo and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Lalumia explained the subject ordinance is the five-year capital program, which includes bond projects in future years. Therefore, amendments #9 and #10 needed to be included in the subject ordinance as well.

**AMENDMENTS FOR O-179-2004**

**The following separate amendments were pulled:**

#9 – Street Bonds Project – Eraste Landry/Doc Duhon Robley Extension

#10 – Street Bonds Project – Eraste Landry/Simcoe Street Corridor

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(510)

**The following amendments were added:**

**#19 – Department of Utilities 5-year capital program (Increase ACP etc. \$5,750,000 and decrease South Plant Sludge handling and treatment in same amount)**

A motion was offered by Mouton, seconded by Stevenson and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved.*

Upon questioning by Stevenson, Huval explained the Ambassador Caffery Plant is part of a response to requirements from the EPA. The cost of steel has increased significantly. Therefore, the priority became the need for repairs on the Ambassador Caffery Plant and LUS will return at a later time to request funding for the South Plant Sludge project.

(TAPE 2)(SIDE A)(557)

**#20 – Camellia Blvd. Soundwall (to move \$660,000 funding to Council Reserve)**

A motion was offered by Williams, seconded by Benjamin and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin, Broussard

NAYS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was defeated.*

Williams explained the reason for this amendment was when the project was previously approved; it was geared toward the construction of a fence to help with sound abatement. The tenets and the structure of that particular project have changed. He opined this matter should be brought forth to the Council for reconsideration to determine whether or not it would be a good expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

Upon questioning by Badeaux, Carroll explained the original ordinance referenced sound abatement. Meetings were held with some residents in which they voiced their preference to build a particular type of wall. Additional meetings were held which the outcome of different types of abatement were determined. However, during initial conversations, it was referred to as a wall.

A motion was offered to approve Ordinance No. O-179-2004 as amended by Mouton, seconded by Williams and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Bourgeois, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Conque, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

*Motion was approved as amended.*

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Menard declared the Special Council meeting adjourned.

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Norma A. Dugas  
Clerk of the Council